

## AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 13 June 2005 (13.06.05):  
original claims 1 - 17 replaced by amended claims 1 - 22 (3 pages)]

CLAIMS

1. A method of attaching a load carrier fixing member to a vehicle, the method comprising applying adhesive to the vehicle roof and/or the fixing member, and attaching the fixing member to the vehicle, for subsequent attachment of a load carrier to the fixing member.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fixing member comprises a surface for adhering to the vehicle.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the surface for adhering to the vehicle is indented.
4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the surface for adhering to the vehicle comprises at least one undercut and/or dovetail.
5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a load carrier for attaching to the load carrier fixing member is a roof rail or roof rack.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the load carrier is a roof rack and the load carrier fixing member is a roof rail.
7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the load carrier is attached directly to one or more fixing members.
8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a fixing member trim finisher is attached to a non adhered side of the fixing member.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the fixing member trim finisher is removably attached to the fixing member.

5

10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fixing member comprises at least one gap hider.

10 11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one gap hider is positioned between the fixing member and the vehicle body roof.

12. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding  
15 claims, wherein the method further comprises pre-treating the vehicle, including cleaning a part of the vehicle to be worked on, and/or the use of an abrasive material.

13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding  
20 claims, wherein the fixing member is secured in position using one or more locating members, which is/are shaped to hold the fixing member in the required position relative to the vehicle roof to receive a load carrier.

25 14. A method of attaching a load carrier fixing member to a vehicle, the method comprising applying adhesive to the vehicle roof and/or said fixing member, and attaching said fixing member to the vehicle.

30 15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the load carrier fixing member is a roof rail.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the load carrier fixing member is a trim finisher.
17. A kit for fitting a load carrier fixing to a vehicle,  
5 the kit comprising a fixing member as defined in any one of the preceding claims, and adhesive.
18. A fixing member for a vehicle load carrier attachment comprising an adhesive receiving portion and a load  
10 carrier fixing portion, wherein the load carrier fixing portion is operable to receive a fixing element of the vehicle load carrier attachment.
19. A fixing member as claimed in claim 18, wherein the  
15 adhesive receiving portion incorporates at least one recess adapted to receive adhesive.
20. A fixing member as claimed in claim 18 or 19, wherein the adhesive receiving portion is a locating portion  
20 having roof engaging projections, which are operable to locate the locating portion relative to a roof recess.
21. A fixing member as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20, wherein a portion of said fixing member is adapted to  
25 be hooked under a part of the vehicle roof.
22. A method of securing a vehicle load carrier to a vehicle roof using adhesive and mechanical attachment to the vehicle roof.